

REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the above amendment, Claims 1 and 6 will have been amended; Claims 5 and 11 will have been cancelled; and new Claims 12-22 will have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-22 remain currently pending.

Summary of the Official Action

In the subject Office Action mailed July 7, 2004, Claims 1-4 and 6-11 have been rejected over new prior art. Also, Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Finally, Claim 5 was identified as having allowable subject matter. In consideration of the included Amendments and Remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter contained in Claim 5 (now cancelled), and that this claim would be allowable if presented in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present amendment, Applicant has incorporated all limitations from Claim 5 into independent Claim 1, and cancelled Claim 5. While Applicant does not acquiesce that the rejection of the claims under consideration, i.e., Claims 1-4, is proper, the instant amendment has been made in order to advance prosecution of the instant application, and with a reservation of rights to refile the subject matter of the claims in one or more continuation applications. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 now includes verbatim all limitations from cancelled Claim 5, thus, independent Claim 1 is now in allowable form.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that as Claims 2-4 depend from allowable independent Claim 1, Claims 2-4 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, and indication of the same by the Examiner is requested in the next Office Action.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph is Moot

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer and with a reservation of rights to refile the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuation applications, in order to advance prosecution of the instant application. Therefore, since Claim 11 is no longer pending the aforementioned rejection is now rendered moot.

Traversal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

DANKNICK in view of ROSTOKER:

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,828,864 to Danknick et al. [hereinafter "DANNICK"] in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,729,535 to Rostoker et al. [hereinafter "ROSTOKER"].

A Review of DANKNICK

Figures 21-25 of DANKNICK discloses a network board 101 (or "NEB"; see Figure 24) which provides hardware and software for making a network peripheral, such as a printer, an interactive network member, capable not only of receiving and processing data from the network, but also of transmitting to the network significant amounts of data about the peripheral such as detail status information, operational matters and the like. Figure 24 shows the preferred embodiment of the NEB 101. A particular feature of the NEB 101 that should be recognized the Examiner, *is that the NEB 101 includes a printer interface card connector 170 (which in the preferred*

embodiment is an 80-pin connector for a Peerless printer interface card) that couples to printer interface card 150 and face plate 300.

In re Independent Claim 1 (and Dependent Claims 2-4)

As discussed above, Applicant's independent Claim 1 as now amended includes all limitations from cancelled Claim 5 which was identified as having allowable subject matter in the last Office Action.

In particular, independent Claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, wherein said system comprises a multiplicity of modules, wherein each respective one of said multiplicity of modules comprises at least one dedicated transmitter element and receiver element within said module, each respective one of said multiplicity of modules being electrically interfaced to one another via said transmitter and receiver elements such that said modules are operative to transmit and receive data therebetween.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that this claim is allowable over the art of record.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Claims 2-4 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable base claims and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable over the art of record.

In re Independent Claim 6 (and Dependent Claims 7-10)

Applicant's independent Claim 6 as now amended includes similar limitations from cancelled Claim 5 which was identified as having allowable subject matter in the last Office Action.

In particular, independent Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, . . . providing a first module having a first media access control logic circuit *including at least one dedicated transmitter and receiver element* for transmitting and receiving data substantially conforming to a standardized infrared communications scheme protocol;

providing a second module having a second media access control logic circuit including at least one dedicated transmitter and receiver element for transmitting and receiving data substantially conforming to a standardized infrared communications scheme protocol; forming a single hardwired electrical conductor signal path solely connecting the first and second media access control logic circuits such that the first and second modules are interfaced to each other via the at least one transmitter and receiver elements, allowing the first and second modules to transmit and receive data therebetween . . .

Based on this distinction alone, Applicant submits that no proper combination of the applied prior art can render unpatentable the combination of features recited in independent Claim 6.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw of the rejection of independent Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that this claim is allowable over the art of record.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Claims 7-10 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent Claim 6 and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate these claims allowable over the art of record.

STORY in view of ROSTOKER or CURRY:

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,774,744 [hereinafter "STORY"] in view of ROSTOKER or U.S. Patent No. 5,729,535 to Curry et al. [hereinafter "CURRY"].

A Review of STORY

Figure 2 of STORY discloses an embodiment of a mobile computer system having a peripheral device bus mastering system 10'. The system includes a digital memory access (DMA) controller 12', micro-controller 14', bus controller 16', and

IrDA controller 26. The IrDA controller 26 is used for receiving and responding to command signals from the micro-controller 14', transferring data to and from the DMA controller 12', and for generating and returning a completion status signal to the micro-controller 14' after the transfer of data is complete.

In re Independent Claim 1 (and Dependent Claims 2-4)

As discussed above, Applicant's independent Claim 1 as now amended includes all limitations from cancelled Claim 5 which was identified as having allowable subject matter in the last Office Action.

In particular, independent Claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, wherein said system comprises a multiplicity of modules, wherein each respective one of said multiplicity of modules comprises at least one dedicated transmitter element and receiver element within said module, each respective one of said multiplicity of modules being electrically interfaced to one another via said transmitter and receiver elements such that said modules are operative to transmit and receive data therebetween.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that this claim is allowable over the art of record.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that as Claims 2-4 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable base claims and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable over the art of record.

In re Independent Claim 6 (and Dependent Claims 7-9)

Applicant's independent Claim 6 as now amended includes similar limitations from cancelled Claim 5 which was identified as having allowable subject matter in the last Office Action.

In particular, independent Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, . . . providing a first module having a first media access control logic circuit including at least one

dedicated transmitter and receiver element for transmitting and receiving data substantially conforming to a standardized infrared communications scheme protocol; providing a second module having a second media access control logic circuit *including at least one dedicated transmitter and receiver element* for transmitting and receiving data substantially conforming to a standardized infrared communications scheme protocol; forming a single hardwired electrical conductor signal path solely connecting the first and second media access control logic circuits *such that the first and second modules are interfaced to each other via the at least one transmitter and receiver elements, allowing the first and second modules to transmit and receive data therebetween . . .*

Based on this distinction alone, Applicant submits that no proper combination of the applied prior art can render unpatentable the combination of features recited in at least independent Claim 6.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of independent Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate this claim is allowable over the art of record.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Claims 7-9 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent Claim 6 and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate these claims allowable over the art of record.

STORY in view of ROSTOKER or CURRY and in further view of HARARI:

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over STORY in view of ROSTOKER or CURRY and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,887,145 to Harari et al. [hereinafter "HARARI"].

Applicant's independent Claim 6 as now amended includes similar limitations from cancelled Claim 5 which was identified as having allowable subject matter in the last Office Action.

In particular, independent Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, . . . providing a first module having a first media access control logic circuit including at least one dedicated transmitter and receiver element for transmitting and receiving data substantially conforming to a standardized infrared communications scheme protocol; providing a second module having a second media access control logic circuit including at least one dedicated transmitter and receiver element for transmitting and receiving data substantially conforming to a standardized infrared communications scheme protocol; forming a single hardwired electrical conductor signal path solely connecting the first and second media access control logic circuits such that the first and second modules are interfaced to each other via the at least one transmitter and receiver elements, allowing the first and second modules to transmit and receive data therebetween . . .

Based on this distinction alone, Applicant submits that no proper combination of the applied prior art can render unpatentable the combination of features recited in at least independent Claim 6.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 10 is allowable at least for the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent Claim 6 and because this claim recites additional features that further define the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate these claims allowable over the art of record.

Newly Submitted Claims Are Allowable

In re Independent Claims 12, 16 and 17 (and Dependent Claims 13-15 and 18-22)

Applicant has submitted new Claims 12-22 for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant's new independent Claims 12, 16 and 17 include similar limitations from cancelled Claim 5 which was identified as having allowable subject matter in the last Office Action.

Based on this distinction alone, Applicant submits that no proper combination of the applied prior art can render unpatentable the combination of features recited in at least independent Claims 12, 16 and 17.

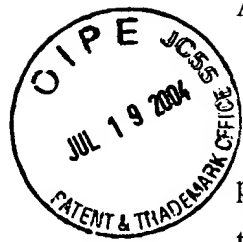
Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the merits of newly submitted Claims 12, 16 and 17 and indicate that these claims are allowable.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 13-15 and 18-22 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent Claims 12, 16 and 17 and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the merits of newly submitted Claims 13-15 and 18-22 and indicate that these claims are allowable.

Application is Allowable

Applicants respectfully submit that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of the present invention



CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every claim of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's invention, as recited in Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-22. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 16, 2004 By: _____

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